

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00

FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EA-10 OES-05

AID-05 CIEP-02 /109 W

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R 281008Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3159

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS KABUL 4199

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AF

SUBJECT: OIL REFINERY TO BE BUILT IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "KABUL TIMES" CARRIED ARTICLE JUNE 22 ANNOUNCING THAT AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PETROLEUM REFINERY IN SHIBERGHAN WAS SIGNED BY GOA AND SOVIET UNION JUNE 21.

2. "KABUL TIMES" EDITORIAL JUNE 23 SAID AGREEMENT "IS A GIANT STEP FORWARD ON THE ROAD OF ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY". EDITORIAL ADDS THAT REFINERY CAPACITY IS 100,000 TONS PER YEAR. INITIALLY REFINERY WILL BE SUPPLIED FROM ANGOT RESERVES, ESTIMATED AT 2.48 MILLION TONS, BUT PRELIMINARY STUDIES INDICATE THAT LARGE PETROLEUM RESERVES ALSO EXIST IN AG DARIA AREA NEAR SHIBERGHAN.

3. EDITORIAL EMPHASIZES NEED FOR TRAINING OF AFGHANS IN PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY AND MENTIONS GOA AGREEMENT WITH IRAQ WHEREBY AFGHAN PERSONNEL WILL BE TRAINED AT IRAQI INSTITUTIONS.

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4. POST COMMENT: AFGHANISTAN CURRENTLY IMPORTS ALL

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS WITH USSR PRIMARY SUPPLIER. CURRENT
LEVEL OF IMPORTS IS APPROXIMATELY 225,000 TONS. THUS,
SHIBERGHAN REFINERY, WHEN COMPLETED AND OPERATING AT
RATED CAPACITY, WOULD SATISFY LESS THAN HALF OF
CURRENT AFGHAN REQUIREMENTS.
ELIOT

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NNN

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